

Fall 2013

## Academic Affairs Report, Fall 2013

University of Northern Iowa. Office of the Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs.

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# Academic Affairs

## Report

FALL 2013



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## **UNI: New Beginnings on a Strong Foundation**

**By Gloria Gibson**

*Executive Vice President and Provost*

Dr. William ("Bill") Ruud has wasted no time in meeting with countless faculty, staff, students and constituent groups around the state and nation, since assuming just a few months ago the role as the tenth president of the University of Northern Iowa.

President Ruud's advocacy for UNI was apparent during his presentation at the fall all-faculty meeting, where he outlined four priorities: recruitment efforts and focus; quality, efficiency, effectiveness and accountability; accessibility, affordability and student success; and relationships with key stakeholders (read more at [uni.edu/president/fall-faculty-remarks](http://uni.edu/president/fall-faculty-remarks)).

The Academic Affairs Division looks forward to Dr. Ruud's leadership and partnering with him to help achieve his goals for the university.

We also extend a warm welcome to our new faculty and staff, who hail from highly prestigious universities and bring a wealth of academic experience. The diligence of numerous search committees has brought us the best candidates. Furthermore, our new faculty body is one of the most diverse in regards to geographies, nations, ethnicities, and sexual orientations represented – an embodiment of the university's vision, mission and strategic plan goal "to create and maintain an inclusive educational environment that prepares students to thrive in a diverse global environment."

Two new staff members have joined the Office of the Executive Vice President and Provost: Associate Provost for Faculty Affairs Nancy Lippens and Administrative Fellow Adrienne Lamberti. Several new department heads also have taken up leadership reins this year.

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## Looking Ahead

Other Academic Affairs Division goals for the year include

- supporting faculty hires
- working to improve community college relations
- facilitating the *Continuous Improvement* report for the State Legislature
- supporting the new Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning's activities
- engaging in strategic recruitment and retention efforts
- supporting Rod Library initiatives, and
- partnering with various constituencies to strengthen our academic mission.

This is a special moment in the history of the University of Northern Iowa. From James Cleland Gilchrist, who served as our first president (1876-1886), to Dr. Ruud, recently installed as our tenth president, UNI has pursued academic excellence since its inception. Faculty, staff and administrators are engaged in ensuring that our programs and intellectual activities “prepare students for success in a rapidly changing, globally competitive, and culturally diverse world.” Situated on a solid foundation, UNI remains committed to educating our citizenry and serving our state, region and the world for many years to come.

Thank you for all you do in support of our goals!



Gloria J. Gibson  
Executive Vice President and Provost

## NEW FACES AT UNI

*The Office of the Executive Vice President and Provost welcomes our new members of the UNI community:*

**JUNYONG AHN** (Ph.D., University of Florida) joins the Department of Technology, focusing on construction management. Professor Ahn comes to UNI from Iowa State University, and likes to play tennis and watch sports, especially college football.

**ARIEL ALOE** (Ph.D., Florida State University) joins the Department of Educational Psychology and Foundations, specializing in research synthesis and quantitative methods. Professor Aloe served at Florida State University before coming to UNI, and enjoys spending time with family.

**JOHN ANDERSON III** (Ph.D. [January 2013], Durham University) joins the Department of Management, focusing on supply chain management. Professor Anderson comes to UNI from Drake University, and enjoys running, alpinism and board games.

**KIMBERLY BAKER** (Ph.D., University of Texas at Austin) joins the Department of Sociology, Anthropology, and Criminology, specializing in issues of the courts, drugs and addiction. Professor Baker comes from Ithaca College, and since moving to Cedar Falls has become an enthusiastic bicyclist on the area trails.

**ANN BRADFIELD** (D.M.A., University of North Texas) joins the School of Music, focusing on the saxophone. Before coming to UNI, Professor Bradfield served at Eastern New Mexico University. She enjoys studying and practicing yoga.

**JEFFREY BRAND** (Ph.D., Indiana University) joins the Department of Communication Studies, focusing on public relations. Professor Brand comes to UNI from Millikin University and enjoys cooking and exploring train museums with his family.

**DAN BUMBLAUSKAS** (Ph.D., Iowa State University) joins the Department of Management, focusing on operations and supply chain management. Professor Bumblauskas comes to UNI having served at the University of Missouri. He enjoys playing golf as well as ice and roller hockey.

**JOHN BURNIGHT** (Ph.D., University of Chicago) is in the Department of Philosophy and World Religions, specializing in biblical studies. Professor Burnight previously served at Lewis University, and enjoys reading, jogging, and cheering on the Minnesota Gophers and Vikings.

**LEISL CARR CHILDERS** (Ph.D., University of Nevada, Las Vegas) joins the Department of History, focusing on public (applied) history. Professor Carr Childers comes to UNI from Northern Arizona University. She rides horses, mountain and road bikes, runs trails, and skis.

# Re-Envisioning Rod Library

By Chris Cox, Dean of Library Services



**Technological changes and their effect on patrons' needs have spurred a number of recent alterations to the space in Rod Library.**

Ubiquitous access to information has resulted in an identity crisis for libraries who have defined themselves solely through printed materials. University courses now emphasize collaborative, peer learning, whereas libraries historically have provided only quiet, individual study space. Academic libraries such as Rod Library consequently must re-envision contemporary student learning and think differently about their facilities. Students now demand access to the latest technologies, comfortable seating and support – whenever they need them.

As a result, Rod Library is embracing the concept of the *learning commons*. The Learning Commons being developed at the library covers approximately a quarter of the second floor, and is funded through the generous support of the Executive Vice President and Provost. The Commons is purposed to be a student-centered physical and virtual learning space to foster collaborative, interdisciplinary and independent learning. Students and faculty will be able to engage in the learning process via the Commons' technology, resources and services.

The emphasis on commonality also motivates the Learning Commons' partnerships with other campus units. In addition to ITS and the Interactive Digital Studies (IDS) Program, the library is partnering with the Academic Learning Center and Career Services, both of which offer satellite services in the library once a week. In addition, the Center for Excellence in Teaching and

## TANIA CARRASQUILLO

**HERNÁNDEZ** (Ph.D., University of Iowa) joins the Department of Languages and Literatures, focusing on 19th and 20th century Latin American narratives. Professor Carrasquillo Hernández comes to UNI having served at the University of Iowa. She enjoys watching international movies, traveling abroad, and visiting areas of historical interest.

## DISA CORNISH

(Ph.D., University of Alabama) is in the School of Health, Physical Education, and Leisure Services, specializing in child and adolescent health as well as reproductive health. Professor Cornish previously served at the University of Alabama. She enjoys time with family, running and being active, cooking, and reading.

## DANIELLE DICK MCGEOUGH

(Ph.D., Louisiana State University) is in the Department of Communication Studies, focusing on how performance is used for collaborative problem solving, community building and social justice work. Professor Dick McGeough served at Florida Atlantic University before joining UNI. Among her hobbies are kayaking and doing yoga and she enjoys spending time with her partner and puppy.

## SARAH DIESBURG

(Ph.D., Florida State University) joins the Department of Computer Science, specializing in computer systems, security, and privacy. Professor Diesburg comes to UNI from Florida State University. She enjoys competitive and non-competitive couples country-western and ballroom dancing.



**NOAH DOELY** (M.F.A., University of California, San Diego) is in the Department of Art, focusing on photography. Professor Doely comes to UNI from the University of California, San Diego and in his spare time enjoys making pancakes and watching standup comedy.

**MARY DONEGAN-RITTER** (Ph.D., University of Illinois) is in the Department of Curriculum and Instruction, specializing in early childhood education. Before coming to UNI, Professor Donegan-Ritter served at the University of Michigan-Dearborn. She enjoys spending time with family and traveling.

**SUZANNE DRIPPS** (M.A., UNI) joins the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders, focusing on speech and language pathology. Professor Dripps comes to UNI from HCR ManorCare and likes to spend time with family and in the outdoors.

**KENNETH ELGERSMA** (Ph.D., Rutgers University) joins the Department of Biology, focusing on non-native invasive plants and their effects on ecosystem functioning. Professor Elgersma previously served at the University of Michigan. He enjoys reading, hiking, birding, and brewing beer.

**C. ADAM FELDHAUS** (Ph.D., Ohio University) joins the Department of Mathematics, specializing in elementary education in mathematics. Professor Feldhaus previously served at Columbus State Community College, and enjoys exercising, reading, and playing video games.

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*Students enjoy the variety of educational benefits available at Rod Library's new Learning Commons.*

Learning and the Liberal Arts Core offices have moved into the library's third floor, providing faculty services related to innovative instruction. Rod Library is also interested in hosting faculty and student presentations of the products of their research and is already seeing growing demand for the building's meeting spaces.

The Digital Media Hub, located behind the Reference desk, is one of the Learning Commons' highlights. IDS faculty suggested this idea, and implementing the Hub was made possible by a collaboration between the library and ITS. The Hub opened in October.

The Digital Media Hub provides hardware and software as well as student assistance to facilitate the creation of video, audio and graphics projects. Equipment to support the Hub is available from the Multiservice Center (now on the second floor next to the Circulation desk). Two rooms in the area were outfitted with green screens, mounted cameras, mixing boards and lighting, to enable students to shoot and edit professional-level video and use software to create virtual backdrops.

Surveys and focus groups conducted by the library's Learning Commons Task Force initiated the design of the Commons, which can be characterized as open, flexible, comfortable, inspiring and practical.

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First in the redesign process was to remove a wall and set of doors separating the library's interior from the entrance, and reduce and move the Reference Collection to the back of the floor. New carpeting, paint, electrical and networking were installed and new furniture tested and purchased. Furniture additions include peninsular tables with 47-inch TVs that can display images from computing devices, as well as rolling marker boards, both of which encourage collaboration.

Future plans include moving the Government Publications collection to the first floor and expanding the Learning Commons to fill the entire second floor. The library also is exploring the ideas of adding a café (a partnership with the Department of Residence), a Makerspace, an art exhibit space, and a new west entrance. Co-locating partners in the library would create a "one-stop shop" for student research, writing, media creation, and other academic assistance.

The number of ideas seems unlimited, yet space and funding are not, so this fall Rod Library is working with Facilities Services to conduct a semester-long library building feasibility study. To this end, the library is working with OPN Architects, who recently completed the Redeker Center project and Cedar Rapids Public Library. The goals of the feasibility study are to analyze how library space is currently used, to explore space trends in academic libraries, to collect feedback from various user groups across campus regarding their needs and to develop a 20-year vision for library space changes. Rod Library will share a resulting research report with the campus, which will guide future library renovation projects, including the potential for a library-wide renovation.

A renovated and re-envisioned Rod Library will be a gathering place for the campus to access and interact with information in all its forms—a space where campus academic and scholarly activity is celebrated, from discovery to creation to presentation. It will be a recruitment tool for new students and faculty, and embody the university's commitment to learning and scholarship. Rod Library looks forward to working with UNI's faculty and students to further transform this vision into reality. ■

**BRITTANY FLOKSTRA** (Ph.D., University of Iowa) is in the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, focusing on environmental geochemistry. Professor Flokstra enjoys board games and any movie/TV show written by Joss Whedon.

**STEPHEN FOSTER** (M.A., UNI) joins the Department of Teaching as the new Student Teaching Coordinator for Northeast Iowa. Before coming to UNI, he was the elementary principal at the American Overseas School of Rome, Italy. Among his hobbies are golfing, wood-working, and restoring and maintaining "His Old House."

**SERGEY GOLITSYNSKIY** (Ph.D., University of Maryland) joins the Department of Communication Studies, specializing in interactive digital communication and research methods. Professor Golitsynskiy comes to UNI from the University of Maryland. When not in the real world, he frequents Middle-earth and Westeros.

**MARTIN HANSEN** (M.B.A., LaSalle University) is in the Department of Marketing, focusing on sales management and personal selling. Professor Hansen previously served at Martin Brothers Distributing. His hobbies include helping small- and medium-sized companies to grow.

**WILLIAM HENNINGER IV** (Ph.D., Iowa State University) is in the School of Applied Human Sciences, specifically the Family Services Program. Professor Henninger previously served at the University of Colorado-Denver. He practices Brazilian Jiu Jitsu.

**ERIC HIRIS** (Ph.D., Vanderbilt University) joins the Department of Psychology as faculty and head, working specifically in topics on human perception. Professor Hiris served at St. Mary's College of Maryland before coming to UNI. He bikes, hikes and kayaks, and collects and refurbishes antique music machines such as Victrolas and Edison Diamond Disc machines.

**DEOCKKI HONG** (Ph.D. [December 2013], University of North Carolina at Greensboro) joins the School of Health, Physical Education, and Leisure Services, focusing on physical education pedagogy. Before coming to UNI, Professor Hong served at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, and enjoys bike riding.

**CATHERINE HUNTER** (Ph.D. [December 2013], University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign) joins the Department of Curriculum and Instruction, specializing in secondary literacy with a focus on language diversity and reading comprehension. Professor Hunter comes to UNI from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. She likes to work on "gargantuan-sized" jigsaw puzzles.

**GLEN KEITH** (M.M.S., Marine Corps University) joins the Department of Military Science as faculty and head. Before coming to UNI, Major Keith served at the North American Aerospace Defense Command and U.S. Northern Command. His hobbies include hunting, hiking, camping, and alpine skiing.

# Information Technology Services

By Shashi Kaparthy, Chief Information Officer

Once a set of independent silos, all the information technology (IT) sub-systems at UNI are slowly being transformed into a coordinated, harmonious whole to provide a fast, secure and reliable information technology platform for faculty, staff and students.

Figure 1 depicts the many aspects of IT at UNI and their hierarchical dependence upon one another, with an ultimate goal of improving the quality of our working and learning environment and contributing to UNI's mission.

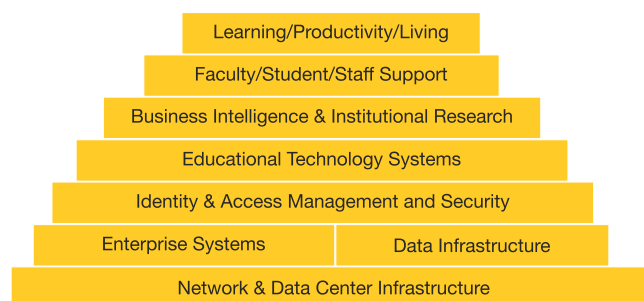


Fig.1 - Hierarchy of IT components at UNI

With support from the Executive Vice President and Provost, monies were earmarked from student technology fees, the Department of Residence, and data and voice services charges to achieve goals concerning UNI's network and data center infrastructure—the foundational component of IT. Such goals included

- refreshing aging equipment,
- upgrading the fiber optic network among all campus buildings for both current and anticipated bandwidth needs,
- increasing the speed of desktop and lab computers' network connectivity ten-fold,
- redesigning network infrastructure to meet key needs such as security, access, and disaster recovery, and
- providing full wireless coverage for instructional and administrative spaces and for faculty/staff offices.

Almost all of these goals have reached an 80% completion rate in just three years.

During 2013-14, goals for Information Technology Services' network infrastructure range from implementing a paperless data and voice billing process and creating

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a plan to replace current phone systems with a Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) system, to researching the feasibility of offering open WiFi guest access.

Another crucial component of IT at UNI is the enterprise systems. Enterprise systems enable students to register for classes and pay tuition, and faculty to record grades and be paid. UNI's financial and student systems process over a million transactions each year.

Perhaps the best-known effort in the area of enterprise systems is the rolling out of the Student Information System (SIS), replacing a legacy system over three decades old. Implementing the new SIS required over three years and a 50-person staff across the university's three divisions. Also notable in this area was our partnering with Google to outsource email and calendar tools, and supporting the University of Iowa's creation of our university's Jobs@UNI hiring management system.

Additionally critical among enterprise systems' goals is to ensure that students' early computer experiences at UNI are positive, especially as a student first inquires and engages with the university (Fig.2).

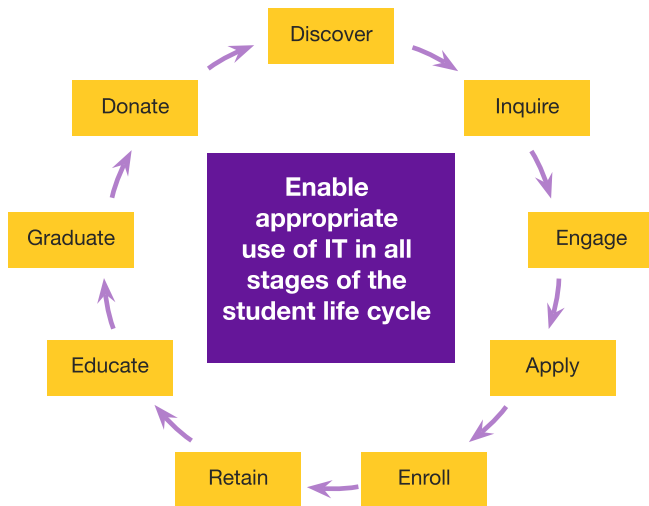


Fig.2 - The importance of IT during the "student life cycle" while at UNI

As you can see, the IT components of network and data center infrastructure and of enterprise systems alone comprise a wide and significant role in achieving our university's larger mission, and they are just the tip of the technological iceberg. Other components, such as identity and access management and security, educational technology systems, business intelligence and institutional research, faculty/staff/student support, and governance structures, are no less central to our work to provide an outstanding educational experience to our students at UNI. ■

**BINGQING LIANG** (Ph.D., Indiana State University) is in the Department of Geography, specializing in geospatial technologies including remote sensing and geovisualization. Prior to joining UNI, Professor Liang served at Mansfield University, and has a deep interest in reading novels.

**MATTHEW MAKARIOS** (Ph.D., University of Cincinnati) joins the Department of Sociology, Anthropology and Criminology, focusing on working with data and human service agencies to reduce criminal behavior within disadvantaged populations. Prior to coming to UNI, he served at the University of Wisconsin-Parkside. Professor Makarios enjoys running, spending time with family, and watching Vikings football.

**JILL MAROO** (Ph.D., University of Southern Mississippi) joins the Department of Biology, focusing on college student learning. Before coming to UNI, Professor Maroo served at the University of Southern Mississippi and Pearl River Community College. She enjoys photography and making jewelry.

**SHUAIB MEACHAM** (Ph.D., University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign) joins the Center for Educational Transformation, focusing on urban education. Professor Meacham comes to UNI from the University of Delaware, and enjoys jazz, critical writing on jazz, and hip-hop magazines.

**SOHYUN MEACHAM** (Ph.D., University of Delaware) joins the Department of Curriculum and Instruction, teaching literacy education. Professor Meacham comes to UNI from the University of Maine at Presque Isle and enjoys playing the cello.



**KRISTIN MEANY-WALEN**

(Ph.D., University of North Texas) is in the School of Applied Human Sciences, participating in the Graduate Counseling Program. Professor Meany-Walen comes to UNI from Texas Woman's University and the University of North Texas. She enjoys spending time with her four children, running, and skiing with the Waterhawks Ski Team.

**WENDY MILLER** (Ph.D., University of Iowa) joins the Department of Art, specializing in art education. Professor Miller previously served as an elementary art teacher in districts throughout Iowa. She enjoys spending time at the family lake house in Wis. and exploring flea markets and garage sales.

**DANIEL NESDAHL** (B.A., Southwest Minnesota State University) joins the Department of Military Science, coming to UNI from Fort Sill, Okla. Captain Nesdahl enjoys riding Harleys, jet- and alpine skiing, golfing, and attending major sporting events.

**CATHERINE O'BRIEN** (M.S., Lamar University) joins the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders, focusing on American Sign Language. Professor O'Brien comes to UNI from Clear Lake High School in Houston, Texas, and loves to read, meet new people, and interpret music into ASL.

**STEVEN ONKEN** (Ph.D., University of Texas at Austin) joins the Department of Social Work, specializing in fostering recovery and well-being via trauma-informed practice and care systems. Professor Onken comes to UNI from the University of Hawaii at Manoa and bikes, rows, and participates in outrigger canoe ocean paddling.

## ***Lippens Joins Office of Executive Vice President and Provost***

***Dr. Nancy Lippens was named Associate Provost for Faculty Affairs at the University of Northern Iowa effective July 1, 2013.***

Dr. Lippens was formerly the director of the School of Music at Indiana State University. Prior to her position at Indiana State, she was the founding director of Music at Florida Gulf Coast University (FGCU). She spent a number of years in previous positions at Mercer University, Dallas Baptist University and Oklahoma Baptist University (OBU), and was professor of music in the latter two universities.



Dr. Lippens earned her D.M.A. in composition at the University of Oklahoma. She also holds an M.M. in composition from Michigan State University and a B.M. in theory and composition from Oklahoma Baptist University. Her primary area of research/creative activity is in composition (published as Nancy Hill Cobb). Dr. Lippens also spent a number of years in various choral conducting responsibilities at OBU and FGCU and their respective local communities.

Dr. Lippens' responsibilities at UNI include providing faculty personnel support to the Academic Affairs division; facilitating and implementing administrative personnel processes and procedures involving the recruitment, retention and recognition of UNI faculty; and serving as division liaison on personnel matters. She further is responsible for diversity initiatives involving faculty, and advises during collective bargaining. Reporting to the executive vice president and provost, the associate provost for faculty affairs also serves on and collaborates closely with members of the Academic Affairs Council. ■

### **Office of Academic Affairs Initiatives: Communication**

Provost Gibson meets regularly with Faculty Senate leadership to discuss issues of importance to faculty, and Dr. Lippens and University Counsel Tim McKenna meet each month with United Faculty leadership. In addition, representatives from United Faculty, the Northern Iowa Student Government and the Office of the Executive Vice President and Provost convened recently to begin research and selection of a new learning assessment instrument.

## Lamberti Appointed Administrative Fellow

***Dr. Adrienne Lamberti has been appointed an Administrative Fellow in the UNI Office of the Executive Vice President and Provost during 2013-15.***

Dr. Lamberti is an Associate Professor in the Department of Languages and Literatures (DLL), Coordinator of Professional Writing (workplace communication across the disciplines) at UNI, and Coordinator of DLL students' Cooperative Education experiences. During 2012-13, she served as Interim Coordinator of the MA-English and MA-Teaching English in Secondary Schools Programs.

Dr. Lamberti teaches and researches topics in rhetoric, workplace writing, digital communication, and project management. Her publications include *Revolution in Agricultural Communication* and *Complex Worlds: Digital Culture, Rhetoric, and Professional Communication*.

John Wiley & Sons Publishing has just named Dr. Lamberti (along with Dr. Anne Richards of Kennesaw State University) as editors of a new book series, *Engineering Transformation: Conflict, Crisis, Adaptation*. This project is part of the Series on Professional Engineering Communication (PEC) published by the Wiley-Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) imprint. Dr. Lamberti and Dr. Richards, along with PEC Editor Dr. Traci Nathans-Kelly (Cornell University), are the first women to helm titles from the Wiley-IEEE imprint. ■

### Office of Academic Affairs Initiatives: Diversity

UNI continues its participation in the National Coalition Building Institute (NCBI). Earlier this fall, University of Iowa Chief Diversity Officer and Associate Vice President Dr. Georgina Dodge facilitated a diversity workshop focusing on campus leadership, and UNI-NCBI leaders offered other "Leadership for Diversity" interactive workshops throughout the fall as well. The site [www.uni.edu/provost/diversity](http://www.uni.edu/provost/diversity) includes details about UNI-NCBI efforts to make the campus community a welcoming environment for everyone.

**HEATHER PEYTON** (D.M.A., Michigan State University) joins the School of Music, focusing on oboe and music theory. Before coming to UNI, Professor Peyton served at Iowa State University. She enjoys kayaking, hiking, and snowshoeing as well as photography and graphic design.

**ANGELA PRATESI** (M.L.S., University of Wisconsin-Madison) is Rod Library's new Fine and Performing Arts Librarian. Professor Pratesi comes from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and enjoys reading and gardening.

**CATHALENE ROGERS BOWLER** (Ph.D. [December 2013], Morgan State University) joins the Department of Accounting. Professor Bowler previously served at Towson University and enjoys singing at her church and playing the piano.

**DENISE SCHARES** (Ed.D., UNI) joins the Department of Educational Leadership and Postsecondary Education, teaching principal, teacher leader and superintendent preparation courses. Professor Schares comes to UNI having served as the superintendent of the Clear Creek Amana Community School District. She likes to read, bake, walk, and spend time with family.

**JOSHUA SEBREE** (Ph.D., Purdue University) joins the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, specializing in astrochemistry/astrobiology. Professor Sebree comes to UNI from the NASA Goddard Space Flight Center, and enjoys time-lapse photography.

**ALEXA SEDLACEK** (Ph.D., The Ohio State University) joins the Department of Earth Sciences, focusing on "carbon and strontium chemostratigraphy of the Permian-Triassic boundary." Before coming to UNI, Professor Sedlacek served at The Ohio State University; her hobbies include hiking, camping and spending time outside with family.

**GLORIA STAFFORD** (Ph.D., [2015], University of Missouri) joins the School of Applied Human Sciences, focusing on interior design. Professor Stafford comes to UNI from North Dakota State University, enjoys gardening, and is learning to play the piano.

**ROBERTO SWAZO** (Ph.D., Oregon State University) joins the School of Applied Human Sciences, specifically the Clinical Mental Health Counseling and School Counseling Program. Professor Swazo previously served at Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University and enjoys swimming.

**FELICIA THADISON** (Ph.D., University of Southern Mississippi) joins the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry with a focus on chemistry education. She comes to UNI from the University of Southern Mississippi. Professor Thadison enjoys reading fiction set in Regency England and cookbooks.

**PAUL TORRE** (Ph.D., University of Southern California) joins the Department of Communication Studies, focusing on media leadership. Professor Torre previously served at Southern Illinois University Carbondale. He enjoys bicycling and kayaking, and exploring the many trails and lakes in Cedar Falls.

**CRAIG VANSANDT** (Ph.D., Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University) joins the Department of Management, focusing on business ethics. Prior to coming to UNI, Professor VanSandt served at Augustana College. He enjoys camping, kayaking, and reading.

## *The Return of the Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning*

*By Susan Hill, Director of the Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning*

***The 2013 hiring of a new director has initiated a “revision” of the UNI Center for the Enhancement of Teaching, into the Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning (CETL).***

The CETL’s reappearance at UNI is accompanied by a new space on the third floor of Rod Library, near the office of the Liberal Arts Core. This central campus location facilitates the CETL’s innovative learning spaces and educational resources, and the Center welcomes opportunities to give tours to walk-in visitors.

The fall semester began well for the CETL, with over 300 faculty and staff attending the Fall Faculty Workshop featuring Dr. Peter Seldin. Dr. Seldin

presented on “Evaluating Teaching Effectively: What Works, What Doesn’t and Why” and facilitated a workshop focusing on best practices for teaching assessment, such as utilizing a teaching portfolio.

This semester continues with a variety of faculty development opportunities on topics of interest to faculty, staff and students. One session focused on using Turnitin.com to teach about plagiarism and grading papers efficiently, what our students know about technology – and how they expect faculty to use it – and assessing and improving students’ critical thinking skills.



**TOP:** The Fall Faculty Workshop enjoyed a large attendance.

**BOTTOM:** CETL’s spacious new location at Rod Library enables workshops and other educational development events.



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This session also involved a panel of students who described curriculum traits that keep them engaged and motivated in their classes.

In keeping with its university-wide support, the CETL is enthusiastic about partnering with other campus organizations. This fall, the CETL and the National Coalition Building Institute sponsored three reading groups on diversity and inclusion topics, all of which were well attended by faculty, staff, and students. The CETL also is working with Information Technology Services' Educational Technology Services and the Northern Iowa Student Government to develop additional faculty development opportunities.

Groups of new faculty have been meeting with the CETL as well, to discuss professional development and help with their transition to UNI. The CETL further has been consulting on teaching issues with a number of faculty on campus.

Please feel free to contact [cetl@uni.edu](mailto:cetl@uni.edu) with ideas for programming and regarding faculty development opportunities for the CETL to advertise on its calendar (at its growing website [www.uni.edu/provost/cetl](http://www.uni.edu/provost/cetl)), or to discuss other teaching issues. "Like" the CETL on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/unicetl](http://www.facebook.com/unicetl) to get information about upcoming events. ■

## Office of Academic Affairs Initiatives: Funding

In April, the Roy J. Carver Charitable Trust granted \$2 million to UNI to create the new Center for Educational Transformation. The Center's mission is to "transform education in Iowa and the nation through collaborative research, dynamic practice, policy advocacy and sustainable innovation." CHAS Dean Joel Haack and COE Dean Dwight Watson, Office of Research and Sponsored Programs (RSP) Director of Research Services Anita Gordon and Provost Gibson are serving as a steering committee to initiate activities supporting the Center's mission, and a national search for a director is currently underway.

The Office of the Executive Vice President and Provost also is working with the RSP to provide funding for faculty research initiatives. Competitive awards such as Pre-Tenure Summer Fellowships (which will be available again this year) support faculty in their work. Details can be found at [www.uni.edu/rsp](http://www.uni.edu/rsp). Similarly, the Sustainability Planning Committee will offer summer fellowships, to support faculty as they integrate sustainability initiatives into curricula.

**BRIAN WARBY** (Ph.D. [December 2013], University of South Carolina) joins the Department of Political Science, studying international political economy. Professor Warby comes to UNI from the University of South Carolina, is a marathon runner and enjoys sailing.

**ROBERT WEATON** (M.A., UNI) joins the Department of Teaching as the Quad Cities/Southeast Iowa Student Teaching Coordinator. Prior to UNI, Professor Weaton served as the principal at Muscatine High School. He is an avid Green Bay Packers and St. Louis Cardinals fan, and enjoys golf.

**ANTHONY WILLIAMS** (D.M.A., University of Memphis) joins the School of Music, focusing on the trombone. Professor Williams comes to UNI from the University of Mary. He loves to cook.

**MATTHEW WILSON** (M.F.A., Yale University) is in the Department of Marketing, focusing on digital advertising, advertising campaign development, and experiential marketing. Professor Wilson previously served at Mudd Advertising. He is in an art rock band, Burning Palace, with a fellow UNI faculty member.

**JOLENE ZIGAROVICH** (Ph.D., Claremont Graduate University) joins the Department of Languages and Literatures, specializing in 19th century literature. Professor Zigarovich comes to UNI from Cornell University. She enjoys cooking and traveling.

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## SEEDing the Future

*By Christy Twait, Assistant Provost for Research and Sponsored Programs*

*James Davis, Associate Professor of Languages and Literatures*

A 5:1 return on research, scholarship, and creative projects supported by previous years' seed funding has demonstrated the funds' importance to intellectual activity at UNI. Award recipients so far have generated almost \$823,500 in external funding as a result of their work.

The returns on these funds are more than monetary, however. For instance, almost all of the seed awardees included undergraduate and graduate students in their work. Additionally, the funds resulted in a new relationships such as a long-term partnership between Waterloo Community Schools and the Center for Teaching and Learning of Mathematics; and interdisciplinary collaborations, one between the School of Health, Physical Education, and Leisure Services and the Department of Geography, the other between the Center for Social and Behavioral Research and the GeoInformatics Training Research Education and Extension Center.

The Iowa Writing Project (IWP) was yet another seed grant recipient. Dr. Jim Davis, IWP director, was given the award to develop an initiative focusing on the topic of teacher leadership during 2012-13. Twenty teachers joined 15 veteran IWP teacher-leaders in a year-long study of the topic in an Iowa context and the Common Core era.

The Teacher Leadership Initiative "has given teachers a place to examine their practice and support each other as well as learn how to take on leadership roles in their districts, statewide and even nationally," states Julie Powell-Mohr, a veteran teacher-leader.

Many such ventures have qualified for seed funding. Last year, the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs (RSP) received more than 50 suggestions



*Participants exchange ideas during the Iowa Writing Project. The IWP's Teacher Leader Initiative was just one enterprise receiving a seed grant from UNI.*

as to how UNI can continue to enhance its scholarly enterprise, in less than one week after distributing a request for input. The RSP subsequently developed those ideas into categories/needs eligible for seed funding consideration: scholarship support, and small and large seed grants.

The Office of the Executive Vice President and Provost enables seed funds to be distributed by the RSP. While 2013 SEED-awarded projects "take root," the Provost is offering another round of funding for fiscal year 2014. The RSP has released a request for proposals, again based upon campus input regarding areas most benefited by funds. 2014 categories/needs consequently qualifying for consideration are scholarship support, project grants, and a major conference grant.

In addition, the Office of the President has provided additional support for hiring students to participate in funded projects, in demonstration of UNI's dedication to faculty-student collaboration. ■

## The National Coalition Building Institute

*By Victoria Pruin DeFrancisco, Coordinator of the UNI-National Coalition Building Institute*

To date, more than 1,000 UNI campus members have completed a diversity inclusion workshop facilitated by the UNI-National Coalition Building Institute (NCBI), a team of 40 volunteer students, staff, faculty and administrators certified by NCBI.org. Among workshop alumni are university administrators, resident assistants, and summer orientation student staff.



*Members of the UNI-National Coalition Building Institute team gathered for an annual retreat on August 15.*

In 2010, Provost Gloria Gibson initiated the UNI-NCBI, which is coordinated by faculty diversity fellows and an advisory committee.

The mission of the NCBI is to create a campus community where everyone wants to belong. In the UNI-NCBI, campus members learn methods for taking on ownership in building diversity inclusion. As a community, this program offers an approach where all issues and all groups count.

Workshops feature a highly interactive, positive method to build leadership. The UNI-NCBI scheduled five one-day workshops during the fall 2013 semester, to support participants as they move from diversity awareness to skill building in cultural competence. These workshops are a part of the larger campus-wide conversation endorsed by the Offices of the President, Executive Vice President and Provost, Vice President of Student Affairs and Vice President of Administration and Finance.

As the UNI-NCBI is a university-sanctioned program, supervisors are strongly urged to support staff who

wish to participate in its workshops. Students can obtain class absence requests from Program Coordinator Victoria DeFrancisco. Volunteer participation is essential to the success of this program.

Those interested can still register for the final workshop on December 5 at [ncbiworkshop.eventbrite.com](http://ncbiworkshop.eventbrite.com). Dates for spring workshops will be announced soon.

The UNI-NCBI has generated additional initiatives, such as a 45-minute workshop preview available to classes, organizations and department meetings; reading groups on diversity inclusion, launched in September with the support of the new Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning; a partnership effort with the UNI Reaching for Higher Ground project in February 2014, to host documentary filmmaker Byron Hurt as he discusses *Beyond Beats and Rhymes* and *Soul Food Junkies*; and the launch of an interactive UNI-NCBI website at [www.uni.edu/provost/diversity](http://www.uni.edu/provost/diversity). ■



## Bridging American Indians and Taiwan's Indigenous Tribes

By **Craig Klafter**, Associate Provost for International Programs

**Yolanda Pushetonequa**, Meskwaki Language Department Director



*Jerry Stephens (superintendent of the Meskwaki Settlement School), Harvey Davenport (Meskwaki Culture teacher), Professor Lim Siu-theh, Adrian Pushetonequa (Meskwaki Culture teacher), Professor Huang Ji-ping, Dr. Li Tai-yen, Professor Craig Klafter*

On February 22, 2013, the University of Northern Iowa hosted a Language Symposium on the Meskwaki Settlement in Tama, Iowa. The symposium was an opportunity for UNI faculty and staff to share expertise in teaching a second language with the Meskwaki Settlement School's Culture teachers, who are charged with teaching Meskwaki children the Meskwaki language.

Professor Craig Klafter, associate provost for international programs at UNI, organized the event and invited world-renowned Professor Lim Siu-theh, director of the Center for Aboriginal Studies at National Chengchi University (NCCU) in Taiwan (a UNI partner university), to deliver the Symposium's keynote address. Professor Lim has led the Taiwanese government's efforts to preserve the 40 languages and dialects of Taiwan's 14 indigenous tribes.

Professor Lim also was accompanied by Professor Huang Ji-ping and Dr. Li Tai-yen from the Center for

Aboriginal Studies. During their weekend visit to the Meskwaki Settlement, the Meskwaki learned about the Taiwanese approach to language preservation, and Professors Lim and Huang and Dr. Li learned about the Meskwaki.

Ms. Yolanda Pushetonequa, a member of the Meskwaki tribe, founding director of the Meskwaki Language Department and a Board member of Meskwaki, Inc., and UNI College of Business alumna, reciprocated the visit by accompanying Professor Klafter to Taiwan on June 9, 2013. On June 10th, Ms. Pushetonequa met with Deputy Minister Lin Chiang-Yi of the Council for Indigenous Peoples and executive yuan of the Republic of China, to discuss a wide range of issues of common interest to the Meskwaki and Taiwan's indigenous people.

Ms. Pushetonequa also presented on "Best Practices in North American Indigenous Language Revitalization" at NCCU. The lecture was attended by NCCU

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students and faculty, government representatives, tribal representatives, and the news media.

Ms. Pushetonequa described a range of community-based approaches to language revitalization used in the U.S. and Canada. The U.S. and Canadian governments' limited political, financial, and institutional support for indigenous language revitalization have given rise to a need for community-based programs. Meanwhile in Taiwan, under the leadership of President Ma Ying-jeou and Minister Sun Ta-chuan, the government is a proactive leader in indigenous language revitalization and even commissions university support in many aspects of cultural program development.

Such contrast makes for fundamental differences between the language programs used by U.S. and Taiwan tribes. However, the common issues they face in culture and language preservation still fostered a strong common bond, through which future conversations have been planned to allow each nation to learn from one another's strengths. Ms. Pushetonequa's presentation was so thought provoking that the *Evening News* on Taiwan's aboriginal Channel Sixteen broadcast a lengthy account of the lecture.

Subsequent to the lecture, Professor Lim Siu-theh, Professor Huang Ji-ping and Dr. Li Tai-yen escorted Ms. Pushetonequa and Professor Klafter to the tribal areas of the Saisiyat and Atayal peoples. American Indians have much in common with Taiwan's indigenous tribes, in that both have faced pressure to assimilate with dominant cultures and struggle to maintain their distinctive cultures, languages, and religions.

"It's a beautiful thing to travel to the other side of the world and meet people who are just like us in many ways. It felt good to see that there are others who see the world in a similar way that tribal people in the U.S. do. I only wish we were closer to allow more



Ms. Pushetonequa with a leader of the Saisiyat tribe

community members to meet. Facebook® and Skype® will have to do," stated Ms. Pushetonequa.

Through a series of meetings with Saisiyat tribal leaders, Ms. Pushetonequa explored areas of common experience and interests and shared ideas on language revitalization. The women of the Atayal tribe are traditional weavers, and in a meeting with an Atayal master weaver, Ms. Pushetonequa and Professor Klafter explored ways to help her develop markets in the United States for her exquisite designs.

Through the partnership between the University of Northern Iowa and National Chengchi University and the visits by Professor Lim, Professor Huang and Dr. Li to Iowa and by Ms. Pushetonequa to Taiwan, a bridge is being built linking the Meskwaki Nation with the Saisiyat and Atayal tribes and more generally American Indians and the indigenous peoples of Taiwan. Indeed, this bridge building will continue. Professor Klafter has announced the offer of a full scholarship to an indigenous student from Taiwan to study at the University of Northern Iowa next year.

"It is our hope that by means of this scholarship the University of Northern Iowa will help to educate a future leader of one of Taiwan's indigenous communities, and further relations between the Meskwaki and Taiwan's indigenous community," Professor Klafter remarked. ■



## Award-Winning Innovations in Teaching, Scholarship, and Creative Activity

According to the most recent *U.S. News & World Report* rankings, UNI continues to place second among Public Regional Midwest Universities, and has done so for several years. Meanwhile, our ranking in the category of the combined Private and Public Regional Midwest Universities has jumped – from 22nd to 13th!

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**Faculty and staff  
efforts have  
strengthened  
retention, degree  
completion and  
graduate rates.**

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Faculty and staff's deep investment in UNI students' achievement has contributed to strengthened retention and degree completion as well as improvement of the six-year graduate rate. The diligent work by the Retention Council (now in its third year) has helped monitor and improve student success. All of these efforts have enabled UNI's higher ranking in the report.

UNI faculty make an impact across the disciplines via innovative teaching, ground-breaking scholarship and creative activity, prestigious awards and appointments, and influential on- and off-campus conferences. This past summer, UNI hosted the annual meeting of the Colloquium on Violence and Religion. The conference brought together scholars from around the world to discuss papers on the Colloquium theme, "A Land between Two Rivers: Space, Place and Mimetic Theory."

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UNI hosted the annual Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR) Conference this summer as well, where Lieutenant Governor Kim Reynolds' stirring keynote address described the importance of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) fields to Iowa's economy.

Soon, such activities will be housed at Rod Library's Institutional Repository initiative.

Prestigious awards have been the result of UNI faculty's work, such as 2013-14 Fulbrights awarded to Dr. Chris Martin, Dr. Mark Myers and Dr. Nadia Korobova. Professor Martin, head and professor of the Department of Communication Studies, will undertake research in Hungary. Professor Myers, assistant professor of biology, will conduct research in Colombia. Dr. Korobova, associate director for international students and scholars, will participate in the International Education Administrators Program in Germany and France.



Gloria J. Gibson  
Executive Vice President and Provost